



# Code R Pillar Three: Access to Space

— Space Transfer Technology Project —

2000 PMC —

- ◆ **In Space Transportation- Goal 10**
- ◆ **Achieve with 15 years,**
  - A factor of ten reduction in the cost of Earth orbital transportation
  - A factor of two to three reduction in propulsion system mass and travel time required for planetary missions.
- ◆ **Within 25 years,**
  - Enable bold new missions to the edge of the solar system and beyond by reducing travel times by one to two orders-of magnitude.

## **Strategy**

- *Reduce Current Systems*
- *Dry Mass/ Improve Performance*
- *Improve Operability & Reliability*
- *Examine Reusability*
- *Mature New Concepts &*
- *Technologies*

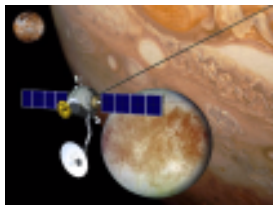
## **Customers**

- **NASA, Commercial, DoD Satellites**
- **Robotic Exploration**
- **Human Exploration**
- **Interstellar Missions**



# In-Space Investment Rationale

- ◆ **High Percentage of Projected Launches to Low-Earth Orbit will Require Upper Stages**
  - More Than 70% Go to Geosynchronous Orbit (GEO) or Higher
- ◆ **Current Technology (e.g. Inertial Upperstage) Costs \$70 – 100M+ per Flight for Large GEO Communications Satellites**
- ◆ **Under Current Total Mission Cost Caps, More Ambitious Missions Require Improvements in Propulsion Technologies.**
  - DS-1 Enabled by NSTAR Solar Electric Ion Propulsion.
  - Future Planned Missions Require 2 to 3 Times More Delta V.
  - Rendezvous and Return Missions Will Require Similar Investments in Chemical Propulsion Systems and Aerocapture Technologies.
- ◆ **Per Current Studies, Human Exploration Missions to Mars, In-Space Transportation Costs are Projected to be Higher than Earth-to-Orbit Costs.**
  - Affordable In-Space Transportation is Enabling for Human Exploration Missions (Lighter Weight Systems, Shorter Trip Time.)
  - In-Situ Propellants offer Significant Potential to Reduce Mission Costs.
- ◆ **New Opportunities to Explore Beyond the Outer Planets Will Require Unparalleled Technology Advancement and Invention.**





## ♦ **Mission Categories and Customers**

- Earth Orbital, Commercial, NASA, DoD
- Interplanetary Transfer, NASA Code S, HEDS
- Orbit Insertion, NASA Code S, HEDS
- Ascent/Descent, NASA Code S, HEDS

## ♦ **Close coordination with Air Force and Industry is maintained**

- Hall Thruster and other electric propulsion systems
- Cryogenic fluid management
- Solar thermal propulsion technology
- Tether systems

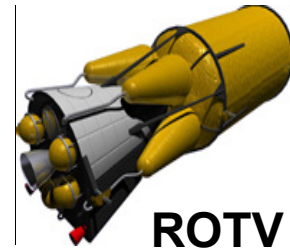


# Scope of Space Transfer Technology Project

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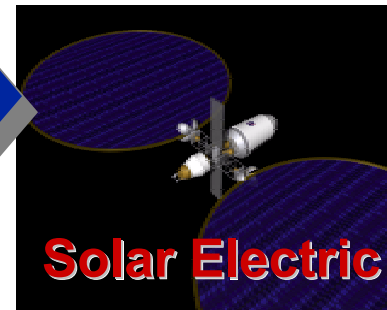
## Orbital Transfer Vehicles



ROTV



## Interplanetary Transfer Stages



Solar Electric

## Planetary Capture

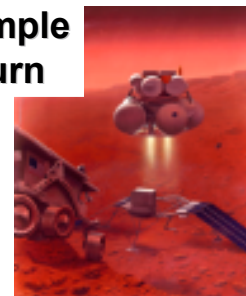


Aeroassist



## Ascent/Descent Stages

Sample  
return



In-Situ Prop/  
Ascent Chem  
Prop Stage





# Space Transfer Technology Roadmap

—Space Transfer Technology Project—

—2000 PMC—

## Major Milestones & Decisions

### Earth Orbital

- Long life, high power electric propulsion

- Advanced, clean chemical engines

- Reusable systems

### Planetary

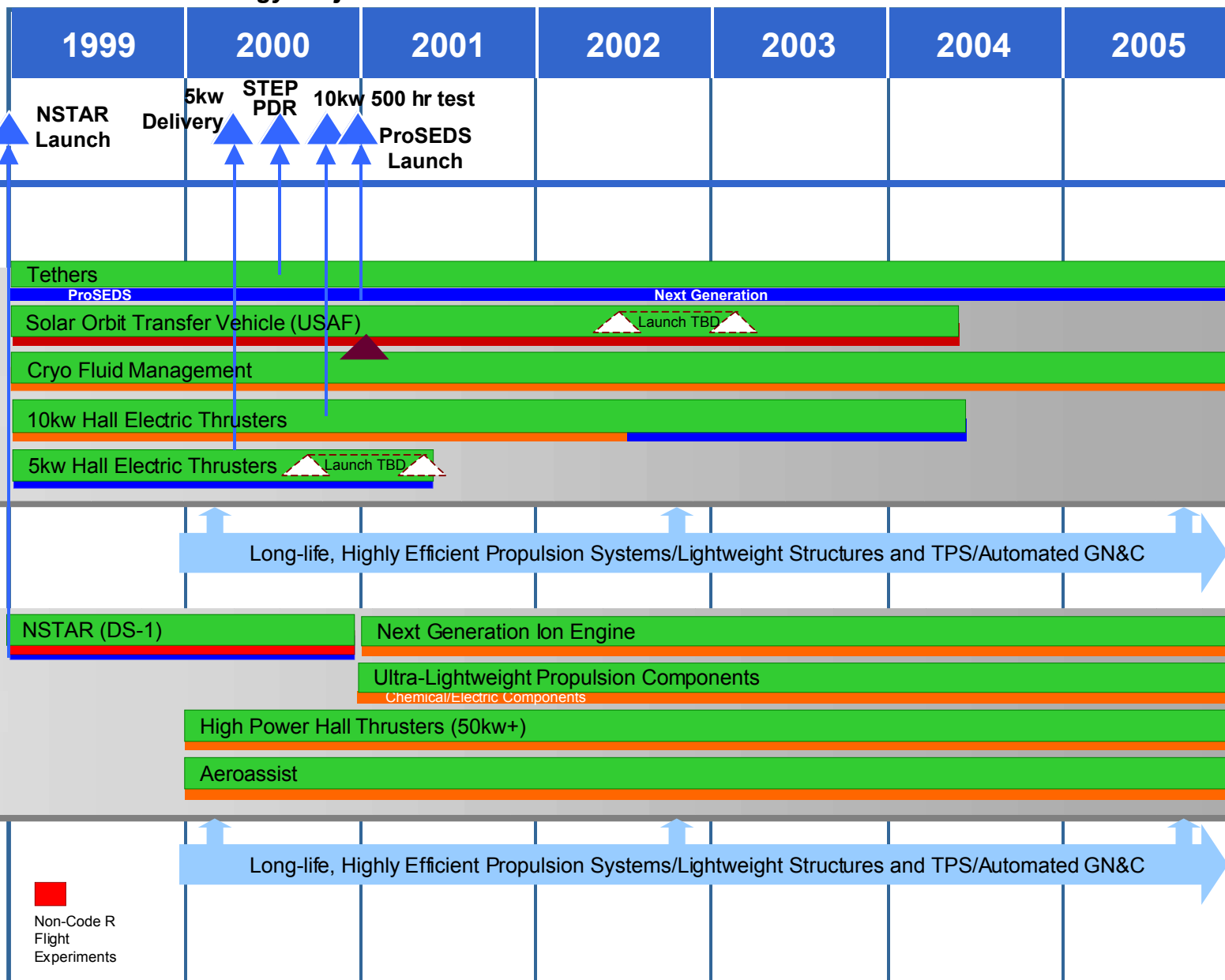
- Ultra light systems

- Precision landing systems

- Aerocapture systems



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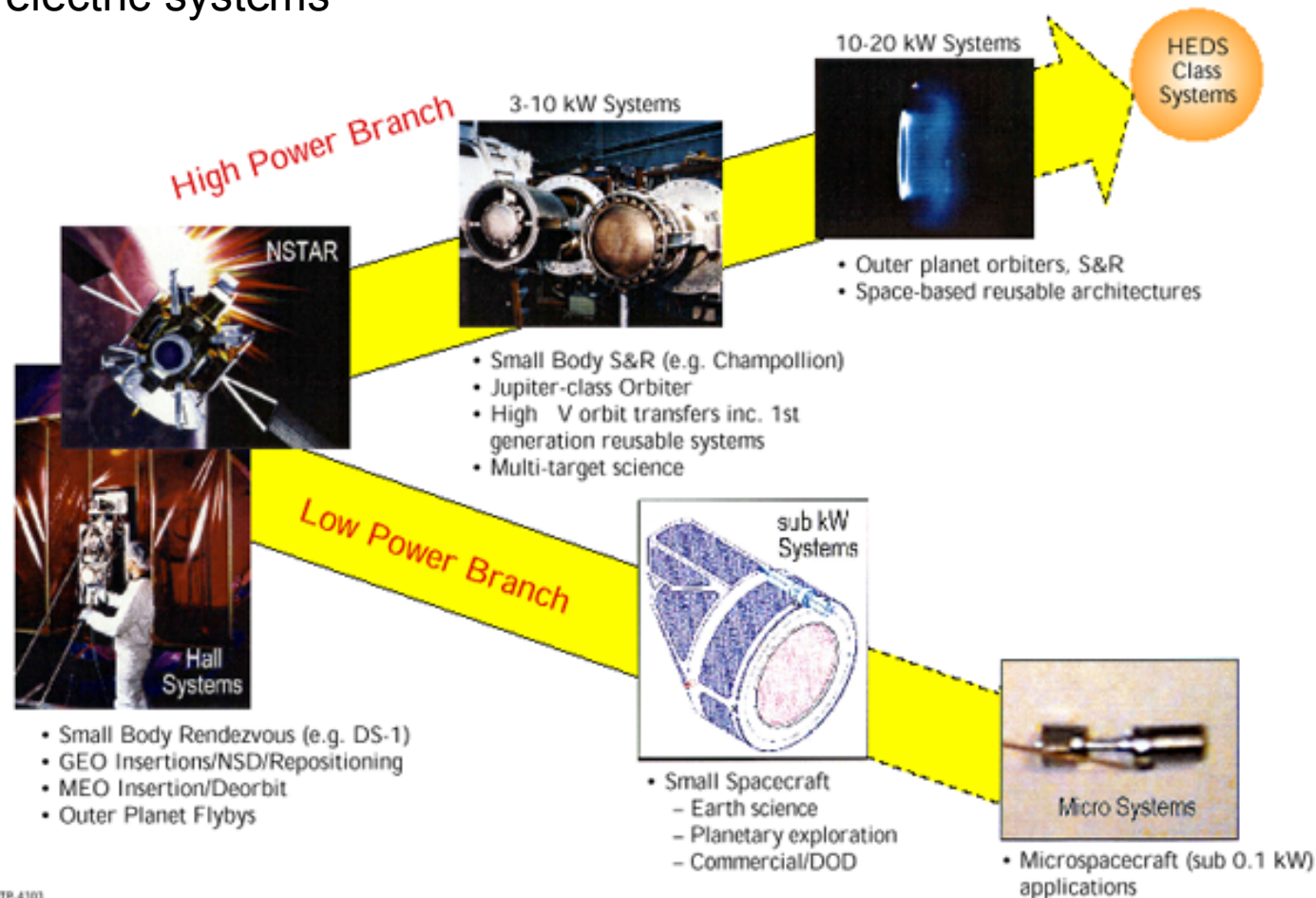
# ASTP Space Transfer Technology: Electric Propulsion

—Space Transfer Technology Project—

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## ♦ Goals

- Advance electric propulsion systems to reduce mass and cost of orbital transfer missions
- Enable interplanetary missions through use of solar electric systems





# ASTP Space Transfer Technology: Electric Propulsion

— *Space Transfer Technology Project* —

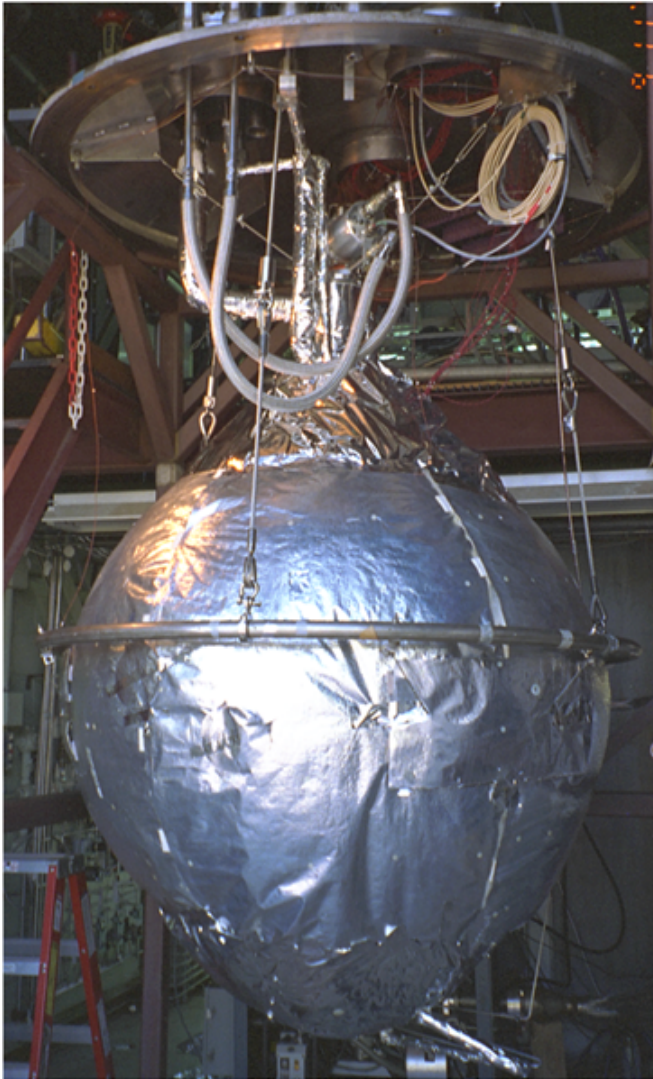
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- ◆ **Intercenter working group has being established for this technology area to help determine:**
  - Project content
  - Technology roadmaps
  - Center funding distributions
  
- ◆ **First working group mtg held in Nov. 99**
  - Participants from mission organizations:
    - GSFC, JSC, JPL, MSFC
  - Participants from technology organizations:
    - GRC, JPL, MSFC, JSC
  
- ◆ **NASA Centers: GRC (Lead), JPL, MSFC**





# ASTP Space Transfer Technology: Cryo Fluid Management



## ◆ Goals:

- Develop capability to provide long-term storage of cryogenic propellants
- Demonstrate concepts for zero-g pressure control
- Develop zero-boil-off concepts for cryogenic propellants
- Future-X funded flight experiment, Cryo Propellant Gauge (managed @ GRC, support @ MSFC)

## ◆ Mission/Technology Applications:

- Advanced Cryogenic upper stages
- Solar Thermal Propulsion
- High Energy Transfer stages
- In-situ propellant utilization
- HEDS Applications - Transportation and surface





# ASTP Space Transfer Technology: Cryo Fluid Management

- ◆ **Intercenter working group is being established for this technology area to help determine:**
  - Project content
  - Technology roadmaps
  - Center funding distributions
- ◆ **NASA Centers: ARC, GRC, MSFC, JSC, KSC**
- ◆ **Major milestone completed in April 1999 - LH<sub>2</sub> tank with Thermodynamic vent system for propellant supply of 30 day Solar Thermal mission simulation.**



# ASTP Space Transfer Technology: Aeroassist

— Space Transfer Technology Project —

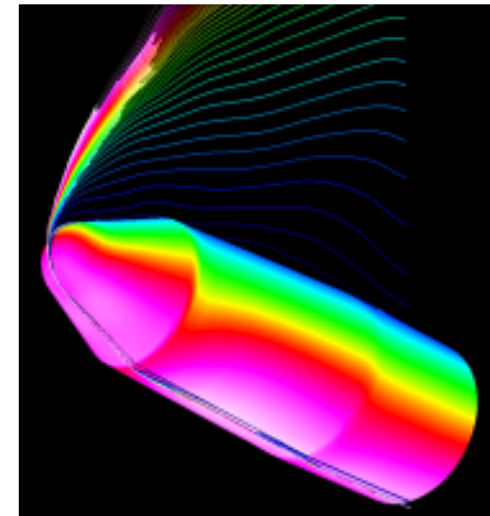
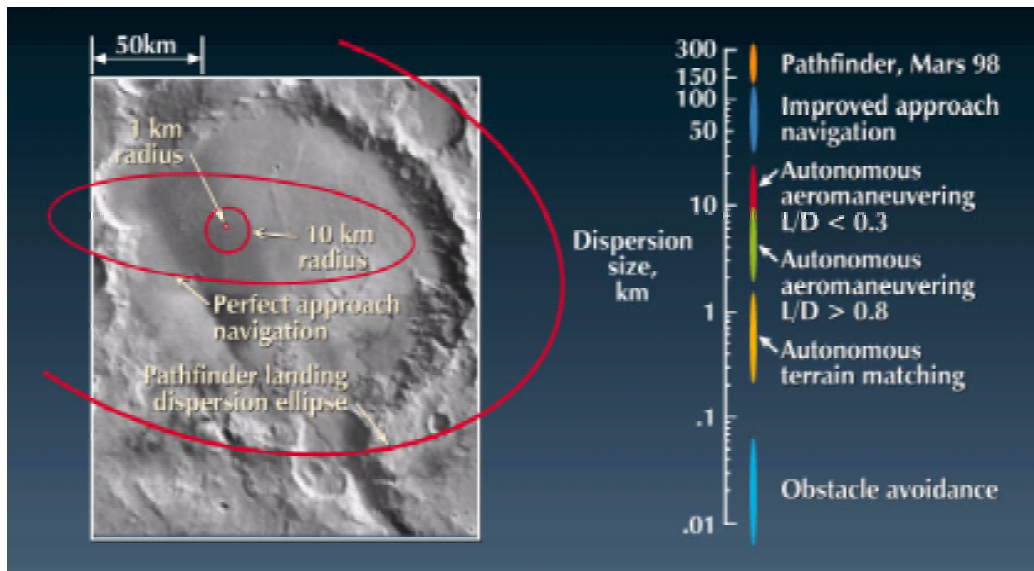
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## ◆ Goals:

- Aeroassist technologies lowers propulsion system requirements for planetary mission; reduces launch mass, enables precision landing, provides flexibility in mission scenarios
- Key technology areas:  
Aerothermodynamics, Thermal Protection Systems, GN&C, Vehicle Design

## ◆ Mission/Technology Applications:

- Aerocapture at planetary surface
- Direct entry at planetary surfaces
- Aero-gravity assist mission
- Earth reentry vehicles
- Aerobraking
- Precision Landing





# ASTP Space Transfer Technology: Aeroassist

— *Space Transfer Technology Project* —

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- ♦ **Intercenter working group is being established for this technology area to help determine:**
  - Project content
  - Technology roadmaps
  - Center funding distributions
  
- ♦ **NASA Centers: LaRC (Lead), ARC, JSC, JPL, MSFC**



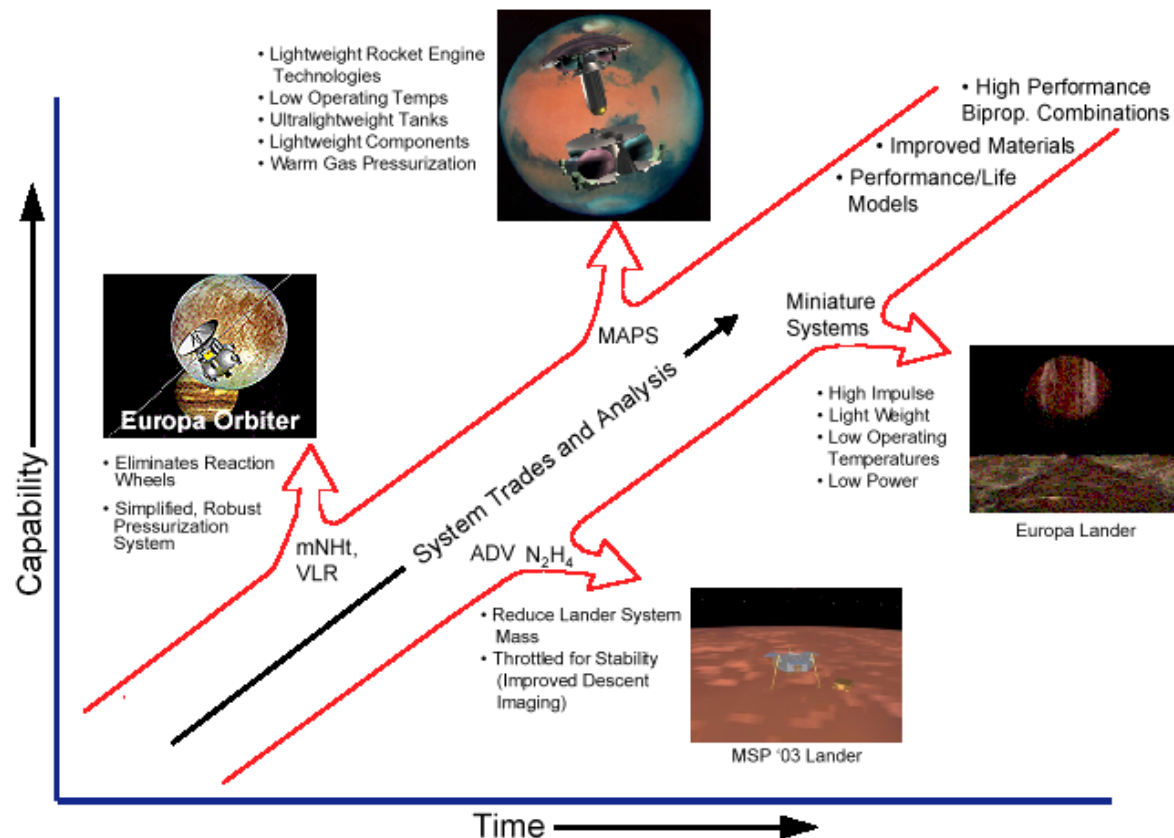
# ASTP Space Transfer Technology: Lightweight Components

—Space Transfer Technology Project—

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## ♦ Goals:

- **Dramatically reduce dry mass of spacecraft propulsion systems**
  - Feed system components
  - Lightweight composites - linerless tanks
  - Lightweight thrust chambers
- **Lightweight systems lower cost and development time**
- **Application for electric propulsion systems, chemical, and cryogenic systems**





# ASTP Space Transfer Technology: Tethers

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2000 PMC—

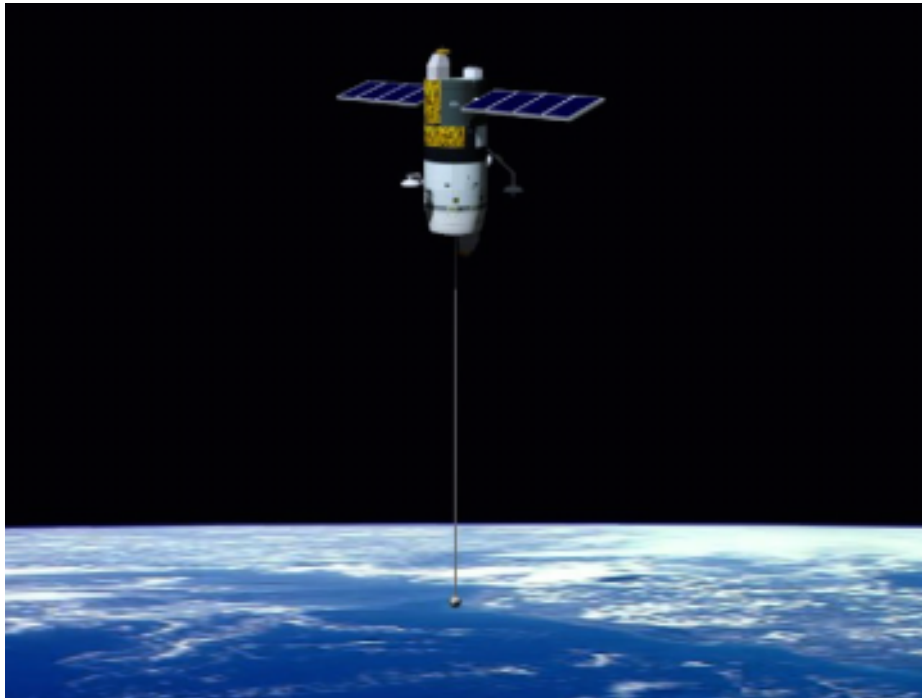
## Description

### ◆ Goals:

- Develop mission applications for momentum exchange tether systems
- Define next mission for electrodynamic tethers (follow-on to ProSEDS)
- Future-X funded flight experiment, ProSEDS (managed @ MSFC)

### ◆ Applications:

- De-orbit systems for spent stages and satellites
- Reusable orbit transfer vehicle
- Space station reboost
- Stationkeeping and repositioning of satellites
- Jupiter and Europa exploration missions
- Payload delivery to higher orbits and beyond

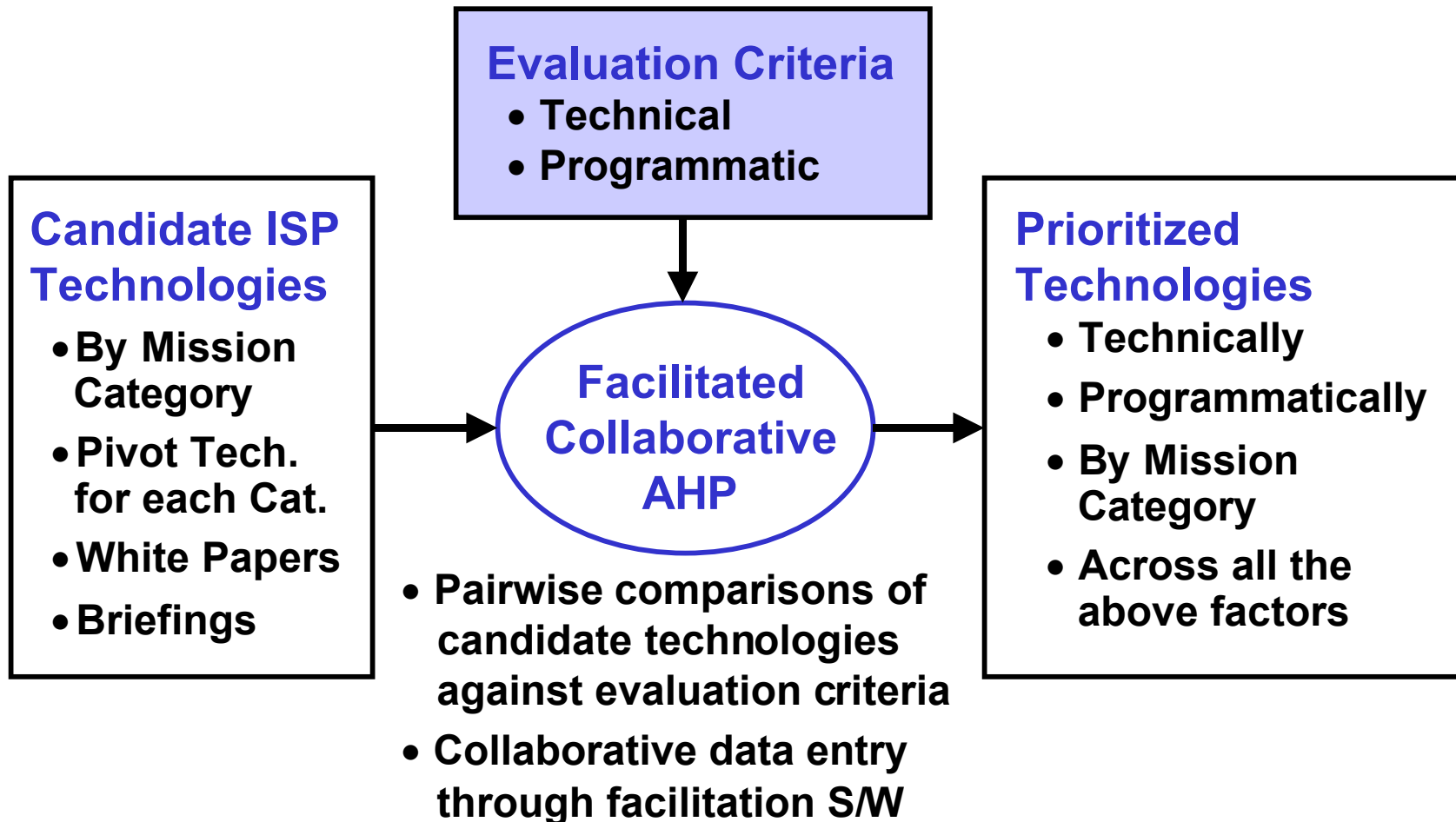




# Major Accomplishment: In-space Prioritization Process

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# Space Transfer Technology Project Milestones

—Space Transfer Technology Project—

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◆ **2QFY00 - Deliver 5KW hall thruster propulsion system to a commercial satellite for integration(EXPRESSexperiment)**

- Output: Thruster delivered to spacecraft ready for integration
- Outcome: Allows increased payload capability over chemical systems

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◆ **3QFY00 - STEP Preliminary Design Review**

- Output: Preliminary design of flight experiment to demonstrate increased transportation capability of electrodynamic tether systems
- Outcome: Allows detailed design of the flight experiment to be conducted. Ultimate demonstration is for a propellantless low-cost orbit transfer system using electrodynamic tether.

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◆ **4QFY00 - Demonstrate electrodynamic tether propulsion (ProSEDS)**

- Output: In-flight Demonstration of altitude lowering of a Delta II 2nd stage
- Outcome: Provides demonstration of low-cost system to remove spent stages and satellites from orbit, without using onboard propulsion system.

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◆ **TBD, based on SOTV launch - Demonstrate capability to precisely measure cryogenic propellant levels in zero-g**

- Output: In-flight demonstration of mass gauging capability
- Outcome: Allows accurate measurement of propellants on orbit, resulting in lowering propellant loading for uncertainty. Ultimate outcome is reduced mass chemical systems

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